MARVEL

MOON KNIGHT™

#12

LEMIRE / SMALLWOOD / BELLAIRE

MERCENARY MARC SPECTOR DIED IN EGYPT UNDER A STATUE OF THE MOON GOD KHONSHU. IN THE SHADOW OF THE ANCIENT DEITY, MARC RETURNED TO LIFE AND TOOK ON KHONSHU'S ASPECT TO FIGHT CRIME FOR HIS OWN REDEMPTION. IN TIME, THE MANY DIFFERENT IDENTITIES HE HAD CAREFULLY MAINTAINED BEGAN TO SLIP OUT OF HIS CONTROL...AND SO DID HIS GRIP ON REALITY ITSELF.

DEATH AND BIRTH: PART 3 OF 5

FOLLOWING A CONFRONTATION WITH HIS ALTERNATE IDENTITIES IN WHICH THEY SEEMED TO DISAPPEAR FOR GOOD, MARC REALIZED THAT THE FINAL STEP TO BECOMING WHOLE AGAIN WAS TO KILL KHONSHU. EVEN WITH THIS MEASURE OF CLOSURE, MARC'S PAST—HIS HISTORY OF HOSPITALIZATION FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND A DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM THE MARINES—FOLLOWS HIM.

BEFORE FINDING KHONSHU, MARC WENT TO RECLAIM HIS FRIEND CRAWLEY FROM THE GOD ANUBIS—BUT ANUBIS REQUIRED A TRADE, SENDING MARC TO RESCUE HIS WIFE ANPUT FROM THE DANGEROUS OVERVOID, WHERE MARC WAS IMMEDIATELY THROWN IN JAIL. HE DISCOVERED ANPUT WAS LOCKED UP TOO, BUT BEFORE THEY COULD PLAN AN ESCAPE, MARC WAS TAKEN FROM HIS CELL...TO HIS EXECUTION!

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<MY LORD, SHALL HE DIE BY BEHEADING OR BY EVISCERATION?>

THE OVERVOID.

<WHAT SAY YOU, MY SUBJECTS? A QUICK DEATH OR A SLOW ONE FOR THE INTRUDER?>

<SLOW DEATH!>

<EVISCERATION!>

<SO BE IT...>

WHOA!

WAIT!

HOLD ON!!!

THUNK

THUNK

THUNK

THUNK

UNGH!

?!

THUNK

<KILL HIM!>

<KILL HIM!>

QUIET, FALSE GOD!

THUNK

MOON KNIGHT?!

HOLD STILL!

HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

FIND YOU? DID YOU REALLY THINK WE EVER LEFT?

BUT I--I THOUGHT I KILLED YOU ALL. I THOUGHT YOU WERE *GONE.*

YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD GET RID OF US THAT EASILY, DID YOU, SPECTOR?

NOW *LOOK ALIVE!* WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO PUT OUR DIFFERENCES ASIDE AND WORK TOGETHER IF WE WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS ONE ALIVE.

SAUDI ARABIA.
SOME YEARS AGO.

‹ORANGES! FRESH ORANGES!›*

‹I DON'T NEED ORANGES...›

*TRANSLATED FROM ARABIC.

‹HEROIN. I WANT HEROIN.›

‹THANK YOU.›

<I THINK YOU TOOK A WRONG TURN, AMERICAN. THIS PLACE ISN'T FOR YOU.>

<MAYBE, MAYBE NOT. YOU DEAL HEROIN HERE? YOU WORK FOR *THE WOLF?*>

<YOU ASK THOSE KINDS OF QUESTIONS, YOU ARE GOING TO GET YOURSELF KILLED.>

<I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT.>

KRAK

CRNCH

WHMP

THIS IS DEFINITELY THE PLACE, FRENCHIE. BE READY FOR RENDEZVOUS IN FIVE MINUTES.

--KZZT-- *OUI, MARC. ON MY WAY.*

BETTER MAKE THAT FOUR MINUTES. ONLY TWO GUARDS.

<THE WOLF. I WANT THE WOLF.>

BAM

<ARRRGH!>

THWAK

<THE WOLF!>

HRRR!!!

STOP!

‹I AM THE WOLF.›

‹GOOD. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.›
‹WHO SENT YOU? WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?›
‹I'M A FREELANCER. YOU'LL MEET MY EMPLOYER SOON ENOUGH.›

‹MY PEOPLE ARE EVERYWHERE. EVEN NOW THEY ARE FLOODING THE MARKET.›

‹WE'RE NOT GOING THROUGH THE MARKET.›

‹I MADE OTHER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.›

BAM

AH!

HURRY UP, FRENCHIE!

HOLD YOUR HORSES, MARC.

MOVE!

BAM

WE'RE IN! GO, FRENCHIE, GO!

GOING, MARC. GOING!

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.

WE HAVE HAD CLOSER, MARC. ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, *MON AMI.*

THE PRICE ON THE WOLF'S HEAD WILL MAKE IT MORE THAN WORTH OUR WHILE.

AND WHEN THAT MONEY IS GONE, WHAT WILL YOU HAVE LEFT, MY FRIENDS? YOU ARE NOTHING. YOU ARE MERCENARY SCUM.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU DEAL THAT POISON. YOU DESTROY LIVES. THE WORLD IS BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU.

I AM A BUSINESSMAN. YOU, HOWEVER, HAVE NO HOME. NO PLACE. YOU ARE NOTHING.

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME, OLD MAN.

I KNOW ENOUGH. I HAVE SEEN MEN ***LIKE YOU*** BEFORE. YOU ARE ***BROKEN... IN PIECES.***

AND NO AMOUNT OF MONEY WILL ***EVER*** MAKE YOU ***WHOLE.***

ELSEWHERE.
ELSEWHEN.

I HOPE YOU HAVE AN ESCAPE PLAN!

WE'RE WORKING ON IT. GET DOWN.

WHAT?

DOWN!

WHEN YOU SAY *WE'RE* WORKING ON A PLAN...?

SHUNK

YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW THAT WE'RE NEVER ALONE, MARC.

I GOT HER! I FOUND ANPUT!

STEVEN?!

<SHE IS FORBIDDEN TO LEAVE THIS PLACE!>

NO ONE FORBIDS ME FROM ANYTHING, LITTLE WORM. YOU SHOULD ALL *BOW TO ME...*

...YET YOU DARED TO MAKE ME YOUR *SLAVE!*

ARRRGHH!!!

YOU SHALL NO LONGER ENSLAVE ANYONE! FIGHT, MY CHILDREN! YOU ARE FREE! DESTROY YOUR JAILERS!

THANKS, ANPUT. I'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A FIGHTER. ALWAYS LEFT THAT TO THESE TWO.

I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE ENOUGH THIS TIME, STEVEN. THIS IS BAD.

MAYBE THIS WILL HELP. FOUND IT IN THE DUNGEONS.

THANK YOU. I'VE BEEN MISSING THIS.

INCOMING!

KOOM

ANYONE NEED A LIFT?

GET IN! MOVE!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE!

VALIANT

BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE SLAVES?

NO TIME. MAYBE WE CAN COME BACK. ANOTHER TIME. ANOTHER ADVENTURE. RIGHT NOW YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO.

CRAWLEY.

YES. YOU'RE CLOSE NOW. YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO GET SIDETRACKED ANY FURTHER.

HOLD ON, EVERYONE...

...WE'RE ABOUT TO BREACH REALITIES!

MARC!

YOU MADE IT, BY GOLLY!

I TOLD YOU I'D COME BACK FOR YOU, CRAWLEY.

YOU DID, INDEED, MY FRIEND. YOU DID, INDEED.

ANPUT, MY BRIDE.

ANUBIS, MY LOVE.

YOU HAVE FULFILLED OUR BARGAIN, MARC SPECTOR. AS PROMISED, CRAWLEY'S SOUL IS FREE AND I WILL FERRY YOU TO YOUR DESTINATION.

BACK THERE YOU SAID THAT *I* CAN'T AFFORD TO GET SIDETRACKED. DID--DID YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH ME?

YOU GO THE REST OF THE WAY ALONE, MARC. WE CAN'T COME WITH YOU. YOU MADE SURE OF THAT.

IT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE. IF ANY OF US IS GOING TO SURVIVE, IT'S YOU.

WE KNOW WE CAN'T ALWAYS BE WITH YOU NOW... BUT WE'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU *NEED US*, MARC.

THANK YOU.

CAIRO.
SOME YEARS AGO.

I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE, FRENCHIE.

I WOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU IF YOU DID, MARC. THE WORST OF THE WORST COME HERE.

BUT THE MAN WHO RUNS THIS PLACE ALSO ***PAYS*** THE MOST. SO...

AND WHO ***DOES*** RUN THIS PLACE? HAVE YOU EVER SPOKEN TO HIM?

NOT YET. AND FROM WHAT I HEAR, WE DON'T WANT TO.

SO THIS IS THE WOLF. I ADMIT, I HAD MY DOUBTS THAT YOU COULD PULL THIS JOB OFF, JEAN-PAUL.

I HAVEN'T DROPPED A JOB YET, RAHIM. ESPECIALLY NOT SINCE MARC JOINED ME.

AH, YES, MARC SPECTOR. I HAVE BEEN HEARING ABOUT YOU. IMPRESSIVE WORK. AND I'M NOT THE ***ONLY ONE*** WHO HAS NOTICED.

THAT SO?

YES. IN FACT, THE BOSS WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU. HE HAS A JOB THAT HE IS RUNNING *PERSONALLY*, AND HE NEEDS A FEW GOOD MEN.

THANK YOU, RAHIM, BUT WE ARE GOOD. OUR PAYMENT FOR DELIVERING THE WOLF WILL KEEP US FED FOR A WHILE.

FRENCHIE...

TRUST ME, MARC, THIS IS *NOT* A GOOD IDEA. THAT IS A DOOR YOU DO NOT WANT TO OPEN.

SINCE WHEN DO YOU MAKE DECISIONS FOR BOTH OF US? MONEY IS MONEY. LET'S AT LEAST HEAR HIM OUT.

SPECTOR IS RIGHT. AND TAKE MY ADVICE, YOU DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE TO *TURN DOWN* THE BOSS.

WHO IS HE? THE BOSS?

I HAVE *MANY NAMES*, MARC SPECTOR...

...BUT YOU CAN CALL ME *THE BUSHMAN.*

I'VE BEEN WATCHING BOTH OF YOU. I THINK WE ARE GOING TO BECOME VERY *GOOD FRIENDS*, INDEED.

TO BE CONTINUED!

MOONIE MISSIVES

Write to mheroes@marvel.com and mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT."

Hey, Moonies!

Your intrepid editor here! I don't know about you guys, but there's something about that Bushman character that makes me a bit wary. Just a thought, maybe it's the filed teeth. Filed teeth are kinda horrifying. Maybe I should file my teeth? Maybe that would help me enforce deadlines? Something to think about. Anyways, let's get to your letters!

Hey MOON KNIGHT Team!

First time writing to you guys, longtime fan of Lemire. Just wanted to let you know what a great job you all are doing on this book. I was a little bummed when I found out this series would be barely connected to the previous series outside of the character of "Mr. Knight." That feeling is no longer there, though, as I am thoroughly enjoying this crazy-town rollercoaster you guys have created. Really wish I could give this much praise to other current Marvel books. Please look at what this team is doing and try to incorporate this kind of originality and passion into your other books--we need more books like this. MARVEL needs more books like this. FANS want more books like this. Thank you so much for keeping a glimmer of hope for the company going, Lemire and team. Hopefully editorial and higher-ups will finally catch on to what longtime fans really want from their Marvel books, huh, guys?

Thanks so much for the great read.

Ricky Castro
Tucson, AZ

Thanks for the kinds words about MOON KNIGHT, Ricky. Really glad you're digging the book. Sorry to hear some of the other Marvel titles aren't doing anything for you. Maybe I'm a company man, but I think we've got a pretty great line currently. If you're a Lemire fan, are you reading OLD MAN LOGAN? It's pretty great! How about BLACK WIDOW? FOOLKILLER? BLACK PANTHER? Lots of great stuff out there these days!

Dear current MOON KNIGHT creative team,

Moon Knight has been my favorite super hero for years now. I believe the first issue of his I ever read was "Hit It!" from 1981 written by Doug Moench, and ever since then I was hooked on the character. Moon Knight, in my opinion, has always felt out of place in Marvel comics and seems more like a classic pulp magazine vigilante like Black Bat, The Spider, or The Phantom. Which is probably why I got into MOON KNIGHT comics in the first place--they just have that pulp magazine spark. The fact that Moon Knight has a secret identity for his secret identity is pretty unique in itself. The only reason why he needs the Steven Grant persona (as explained by Doug Moench) is because he needs to keep his Marc Spector identity a secret. If any of the organizations that he fought back in his mercenary days knew that Marc Spector was the one living in a Long Island mansion and not Steven Grant, then those groups could easily track him down to seek revenge. I never thought once that Moon Knight was mentally ill--he always seemed more like Shakespeare's Hamlet. Hamlet only seems insane to his friends and family, but in reality, he's just smarter than everyone around him.

I gotta say, even though I honestly prefer the original 1979 to early 1980's Doug Moench MOON KNIGHT comics, this "All New, All Different" MOON KNIGHT run is pretty good, and it's probably my fourth favorite MOON KNIGHT run so far.

Anyways, I actually have a couple non-spoiler related simple questions about this current run on MOON KNIGHT. First, why isn't the classic Moon Knight depicted in the comic colored jet silver like Doug Moench intended? Second, will Marvel ever consider bringing Doug Moench back to write another run on MOON KNIGHT? All in all, I am still loving this new run on MOON KNIGHT, and hopefully the ending isn't as predictable as "It was all Morpheus this whole time and he was giving Moon Knight a long, convoluted daydream."

From a longtime fan,
Ram

That Moench run is pretty incredible, so if we're holding our own against that towering comic achievement, then that is high praise indeed. Thanks, Ram! To answer your questions in reverse order, there are no current plans to have Moench write more MOON KNIGHT, and we went with all white on the costume to make it more of a striking visual image. Design-wise, silver blends more into the page, whereas stark white really jumps out.

Hey, everyone,

Jeff should draw an ish of MOON KNIGHT. The art team on this book is crazy-talented and any one of them would be enough, but to see such talent come together and build this incredible series is a treat--and Jeff would fit right in as an illustrator and make a unique book all the more special.

Anyway. Just a thought.

Issue #8 was fantastic and that last page gave me goosebumps.

Yours,
Keith
Los Angeles, CA

Here's a fun bit of trivia for ya, Keith...Jeff actually HAS drawn some of this run of MOON KNIGHT! In the first couple of issues when

you see the scribblings Marc's done at the asylum, Jeff actually did those pages! Not a full issue, granted, but still pretty cool. Glad you dug the end of #8, I love that beat, too.

Hi there, Jeff!

I want to tell you this book is a modern masterpiece and will survive millennia to come. You introduced me to David Lynch and inspired me to become a writer, so I'll return the favor. Look into a book called *Memoirs of My Nervous Illness*. This book will push your creativity into overdrive!

Jason C.

Thanks for writing in, Jason. MILLENNIA! My goodness! Let's hope so! And thanks for the book recommendation, I looked it up, it looks crazy interesting! Speaking of recommendations, after I recommended* The Right Stuff *in last month's letters page I saw* Hidden Figures*, which is also a dynamite movie with a great John Glenn, this time played by Glen Powell. If you haven't seen it yet, check it out!

Dear MOON KNIGHT Team,

The latest issue of MOON KNIGHT is absolutely mind-blowing! All of Moon Knight's personalities meeting each other at once?! As I keep reading, I feel I'm losing my mind and am starting to question what's real. I love the storyline and how the artwork goes with it! Moon Knight has become my favorite Marvel character and favorite comic book to read! Love the psychology with Moon Knight and all the twists within his mind! The mind is very complex, and I am enjoying you guys exploring what it's capable of. Keep up the amazing work, and I can't wait to see how it all ends!

Sincerely,
Psych Major Steve

Psych Major Steve, thanks for writing back in! Hope we're not driving you TOO crazy, 'cause I promise you, there are plenty more wild twists to come!

I adore comics. The escape, the stories, the art--it's all thrilling to me. I love MOON KNIGHT. I've collected every MOON KNIGHT issue there is, including the HULK! mags! He's always been my favorite--he's my complicated, confused, shiny, underdog knight.

Since I met him at my comic shop in Toronto, where he was signing copies of *Sweet Tooth,* Jeff Lemire has also been a favorite of mine. His books easily make it to the top of my reading stack on Wednesday and he's climbed the ladder to become my current favorite writer. When Jeff Lemire was announced as the writer on MOON KNIGHT, I did a backflip, then I started Moonknight.life on *Instagram* to advertise the series and talk Moon Knight! MK fans from all over started to send thank you messages, saying how much they enjoy what I'm doing! (I do my best to credit the artists.) I'm having a blast doing it!

I'm writing this after reading issue #10, and I couldn't be happier with this story into Marc Spector's psyche and his past so far. It's been full of emotion, splendor, and chaos, and I can't wait to see what it's all building up to!

Until Millie the Model becomes the Fist of Khonshu, Make Mine Marvel!

Sandy
Toronto, ON

Sandy, when I started your second paragraph I was thinking that you'd actually met Moon Knight at your local comic shop, and my mind was BLOWN! Meeting Jeff makes much more sense, and is probably a much more delightful experience. And if you think I didn't jot down a note to myself about making Millie the Model the Fist of Khonshu, you don't know me very well. Thanks for writing in!

Dear Moon Knighters,

Thank you for breathing new life into an amazing character! When I saw the cover art for issue #1, I knew I had to read as much MOON KNIGHT as possible before it came out. The local flea market had boxes of old unsorted comics, and I spent hours getting every issue of MOON KNIGHT I could find. The reason I'm writing is to thank you for showing the more serious side of mental illness and how it affects Marc but doesn't define who he is. It shapes him, but his core self is still his own.

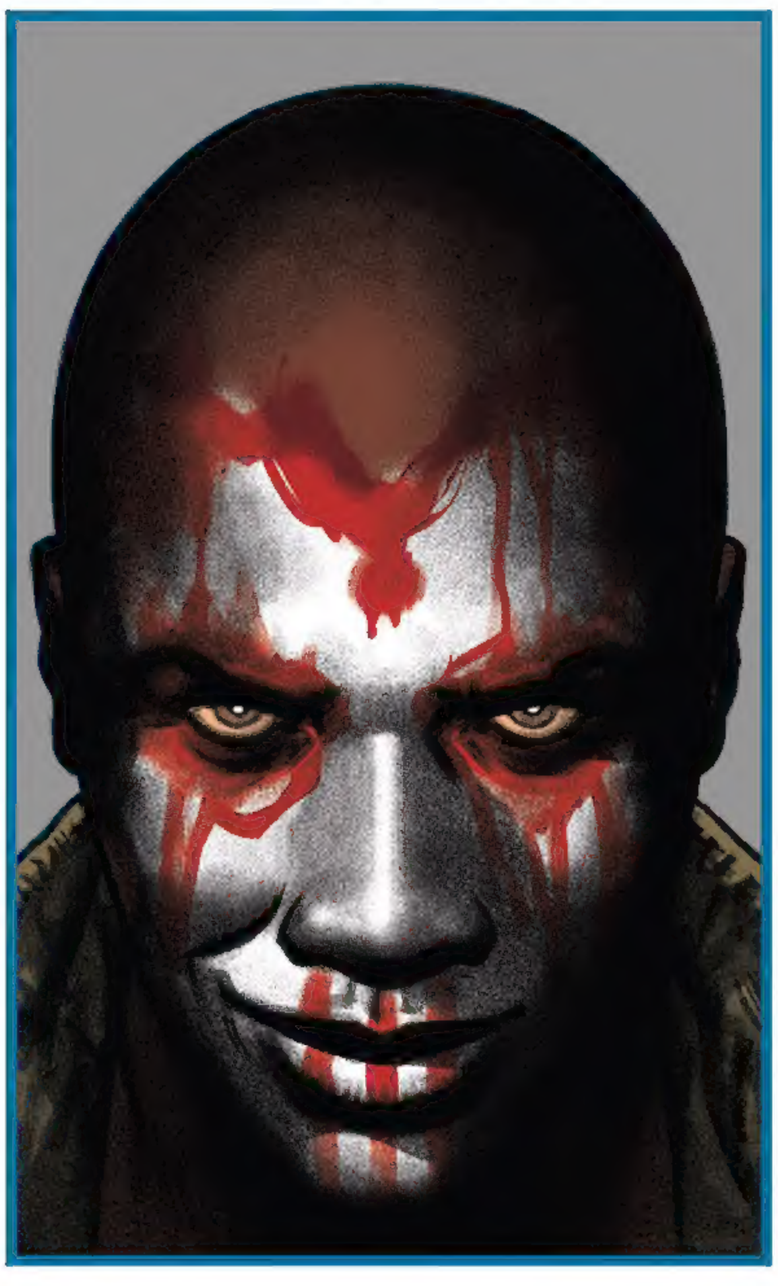
I was recently diagnosed with Asperger's and I felt that of all the heroes, Moon Knight would be the most understanding in this situation. I started writing a fanfic about the idea of if Moon Knight had a daughter with high-functioning autism. It also ended up showing the hardships of growing up with a single parent who has a mental disorder, and the give-and-take of such a relationship. It would be amazing if this could actually happen in some part of the Multiverse, but there are so few Moon Knights. I would also love to see a comic of Moon Maid, but I'm just glad MOON KNIGHT is still going.

Please continue to make MOON KNIGHT amazing!

Teresa R.

WHOA! Moon Maid! You win the Deep Cut Award for this letters page, Teresa! I love hearing about people using our stories to make the world feel a bit less lonely. We'll definitely try our darnedest to keep MOON KNIGHT awesome, Teresa. Thanks for reading!

That's it for now. See you next month, where we'll see the birth of Moon Knight and Marc heading out on his own to... Well, you'll have to see next month.



Stay Weird!
-Jake T.

ZONE